

Message Text

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO: PRIVATELY SPONSORED CONFERENCE

1. A CONFERENCE ON "SPAIN AND NATO: IMPLICATIONS OF
FULL ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP" WILL BE HELD APRIL 14-16 AT

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DITCHLEY PARK, ENGLAND, UNDER THE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR CONFLICT AND POLICY STUDIES, WASHINGTON,
AND THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA. THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE
30-40 PARTICIPANTS, DRAWN FROM SPAIN AND NATO MEMBER
COUNTRIES. IT WILL FOCUS ON: A) THE PRESENT ROLE OF
SPAIN IN WESTERN DEFENSE, B) STRATEGIC POLICY OPTIONS OPEN

TO SPAIN, C) THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF SPAIN IN NATO, AND
D) SPANISH EUROCOMMUNISM. THE CONFERENCE REPORT WILL BE
PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH AND DISTRIBUTED IN THE
U.S., SPAIN, AND NATO COUNTRIES.

2. WE UNDERSTAND ALLIED PARTICIPATION WILL INCLUDE
NOTABLES FROM THE U.S., U.K., BELGIUM, AND POSSIBLY FRANCE
AND THE FRG. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT SPANISH
REPRESENTATION WILL ALSO BE STRONG, INCLUDING:

-- INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FIGURES SUCH AS FORMER FOREIGN
MINISTER GREGORIO LOPEZ BRAVO AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO
ENGLAND AND TOURISM MINISTER (AND PRESENT ALIANZA POPULAR
LEADER) MANUEL FRAGA IRIBARNE;

-- THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES,
THE UCD (GOVERNMENT, PRO-NATO) AND THE PSOE (SOCIALIST,
OPPOSED TO NATO MEMBERSHIP);

-- THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

-- SPAIN'S BEST-KNOWN POLITICAL COLUMNIST AND THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD OF EUROPA PRESS, A MAJOR SPANISH NEWS
AGENCY;

-- AN ADMIRAL ON INACTIVE STATUS INFORMALLY REPRESENTING
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THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND

-- REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES,
PLUS THE CATALAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. AMONG THEM ARE
PROMINENT OPPONENTS OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. (LIST
POUCHED TO EUR/WE, USNATO, AND LONDON.)

3. COMMENT: BOTH THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THIS
EMBASSY HAVE TAKEN PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT THIS IS A
PRIVATELY-SPONSORED CONFERENCE, SINCE ITS UTILITY DEPENDS
ON THIS TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT. THE INITIAL DOUBTS OF
THE GOS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN OVERCOME,
AND THE NATURE OF SPANISH PARTICIPATION GIVES SOME REASON
TO HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE MAY MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION
TO EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPING SPANISH OPINION ON THE
NATO MEMBERSHIP QUESTION. STABLER

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